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Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Certainly not, Sir."

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"Certainly not mine either."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"I am glad to hear that."

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"In regard to this question, the Government thought that these gentlemen were worthy of being members of the local bodies concerned."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"My question has not yet been answered, Sir. I ask him whether in his opinion—I am not saying that these men are not qualified . . ."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Does the hon. Member say 'in the opinion of the Government?'"

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"No, Sir. I am asking what are the considerations on which the Government appointed these gentlemen and whether one of those considerations was that these were the only men available in those various localities fit or competent to discharge the duties of these hon. offices?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"In the opinion of the Government they were persons who were quite capable of discharging those duties."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"My question still remains unanswered. May I explain myself, Sir? May I know from the Government whether they considered the possibility of getting other equally suitable men for these places in the various localities and whether it was because they found that these men were more suitable than the other people or the latter were not suitable, that these men were appointed; or is it because of any man being suitable and these men being appointed, the only accident being that they happen to be Members of this Council?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"The question is so full of conundrums that I want notice of it, Sir."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—"May I know, Sir, from the hon. the Chief Minister—since I find the names of some gentlemen twice over in this list—whether the Government considered how many of these gentlemen occupied a number of honorary positions already and why they considered that such people who already occupied a number of honorary positions should be given additional honorary positions without further enquiry as to whether others were available?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The question does not arise."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—"May I know, Sir, whether membership of this Council is a preferential qualification for any one of those appointments?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"There is no question of preferential qualification."

Representation of depressed classes in the major Union Board of Gudivada.

* 768 Q.—Mr. S. VENKAYYA: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are in receipt of any petitions, reports, etc., from the people of the Kistna District Board regarding the absence of any representation of the Adi-Andhras or other depressed classes in the major

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Union Board of Gudivada, Kistna district, and the appointment, to the nomination seats in that Board, of persons belonging to communities which enjoy representation by election;

(b) if such have been received, what action have the Government taken on them;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the Adi-Andhras and other voters in the Union Board instituted a suit in the Gudivada District Munsif's Court for the cancellation of such wrong nominations, that the District Munsif condemned such nominations wholesale and set them aside as being in violation of section 9 of the Local Boards Act and that those who were wrongly nominated thereupon preferred an appeal to the District Court;

(d) whether the Government are in receipt of any papers relating to it from the Gudivada Ratepayers' Association; and

(e) whether in accordance with the reasonable request of the responsible association, the Government will cancel the wrong nominations?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government have not received any such representations.

(c) & (d) No.

(e) The Act gives the Government no power to cancel the appointments.

Municipal Councils

Alleged unsatisfactory administration of the Erode Municipality.

* 769 Q.—Mr. Basheer Ahmad Sayeed: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received representations to the effect that the administration of the Erode Municipality is far from satisfactory under the present Chairman, and if so, what action the Government propose to take to better the administration of the said municipality; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the mismanagement of the said Erode Municipality was already brought to the notice of the Government last year by elected members of the municipality, and if so, why the Government did not take any action in the matter?

A.—(a) & (b) In December 1925, eight councillors made an allegation to the Government that the Chairman, Municipal Council, Erode, had not properly accounted for some municipal money drawn by him as advances and had also incurred unauthorized expenditure on the formation of a park. The Government, on investigation, found that the Chairman had not exercised sufficient care in dealing with municipal money. He was warned to be scrupulously careful in dealing with such funds and that any loss due to his neglect or carelessness was surchargeable. In August 1926, twelve councillors resigned their seats on the Council as they were not satisfied with the municipal administration and they suggested that the Government might dissolve and reconstitute the Council. After considering the Chairman's report to the Government on the subject, the Government considered that no action was necessary.